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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: ANTHONY H. DODGE, ET AL.
SERIAL NO.: 09/449,204
FILING DATE: NOVEMBER 24, 1999
FOR: PCR ASSAY

ART UNIT: 1634
EXAMINER: FORMAN, B.J.

RECEIVED

DEC 12 2002

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

SIR:

Responsive to the outstanding Office Action dated July 9, 2002, entry of the following amendments is respectfully requested. A Request for Extension of Time for two months is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, thereby extending the date for response from October 9, 2002 to December 9, 2002.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the following claims:

2. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 46, further comprising washing the capture antibody:target molecule complex to remove unbound sample after step (a).

4. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein the capture antibody is bound to a solid support or carrier during step (a) or (b).

5. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein the capture antibody is in solution during step (a) or (b).